



## Minutes of Reach Parish Council meeting held on; Wednesday 1st February 2012

### Attendance

Michael Aves	Vice Chairman	Present
Malcolm Brearley	Councillor	Present
Ross Clark	Chairman	Present
Rita Dunnett	Councillor	Part-time
Hilary Fielding	Councillor	Present
Joyce Harrison	Councillor	Present
David Thomas	Councillor	Not Present
David Parr	Clerk	Present
Allen Alderson	District Councillor	Not Present
David Brown	County Councillor	Part-time

### 1. Forum for Members of the Public

No members of the public attended.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

### 3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting were reviewed and signed.

### 4 (1) Amenity Fund Committee

No payments were made during the previous month however a £750 contribution to Swaffham Prior Scouts had been agreed.

### 4 (2) County Councillor's Report

The Integrated Plan (and budget) for the coming years has dominated discussions and time during January. This culminated in Cabinet on 31 January making a series of recommendations to Full Council. Council will meet on 21 February to debate the proposals. The Council's priorities are at the heart of the spending plans. They are - developing Cambridgeshire's economy, helping people live independent and healthy lives and supporting and protecting vulnerable people.

This year's budget proposals continue to be driven by the financial pressures on public services and radical changes across the County Council, but also by a much greater focus on investing in services, infrastructure and our future economic and social well-being. Cabinet is proposing to increase spending in adult social care, invest in improving roads, transport and broadband, provide more school places as well as boosting enterprise and growth. We aim to see that Cambridgeshire is well-placed to take advantage when we come out of recession. The full detailed papers are available on the County Council website – [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

Cabinet has also proposed that council Tax should rise by 2.95% (a rise of £30.87 on a Band D property). We are proposing that the Council should not take the one-off Government grant of 2.5%. The main reason being that the grant would not have been added to our base level, leaving the County Council with a £30 million shortfall over the coming years. Cambridgeshire is a low Council Tax County – 7<sup>th</sup> lowest in the Country – and we will continue to be much lower than many other Counties.

Cabinet also met on 17 January. Overview and scrutiny Committee had considered the call-in of the Cabinet decision to commence work on the Ely southern link road and decided to take no further action. We also considered items regarding speed limits on the A1301, HCV Strategy and opening up the park and ride service.

#### **4 (3) District Councillor's Report**

No report provided.

#### **4 (4) Financial Report**

The Parish Council is in a financially sound situation and it is estimated that it will break-even this financial year. This will leave the Parish Council with non-tennis court reserves of approximately £4,600 which is 57% of normal non-tennis court maintenance spend.

#### **4 (5) Neighbourhood Panels Report**

No members attended any such meetings during the last month.

#### **4 (6) Parish Council Members Meetings**

No members attended any such meetings during the last month.

#### **4 (7) Play Spaces Officer Report**

New springs for the repaired gate have been purchased and will be fitted by Neville Dunnnett shortly.

#### **4 (8) Rights of Way Report**

It would appear that the meeting with local landowners, scheduled to take place on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2012, did not take place.

#### **4 (9) Speedwatch**

There was no activity in the previous month. Two people have resigned and one recruited. **The Clerk** will seek further volunteers.

#### **4 (10) Village Centre Committee Report**

No report provided.

#### **4 (11) 24Acres Committee Report**

Heads of Terms have been received from the National Trust and the Parish Council 24Acres Committee is working with the NT to turn them into a lease. Pleasingly, a 25 year term with no break clauses, other than by breach, has been agreed. Work goes on to identify and secure funding.

### **5. Hythe Mooring Policy**

The Parish Council agreed that there should be a charge to moor non-GOBA boats and the Clerk was asked to construct a suitable agreement, charges and set of rules for consideration at the next meeting.

### **6. Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012**

The dates for the countrywide celebrations are from Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012. The Parish Council decided that the occasion should be celebrated in Reach and a committee has been put in place. The planned event will take place on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June starting at 2.00pm and finishing at around 7.00pm. Food, drink and entertainment will be provided with the aim being to fund the event by various grants – including one from the Amenity fund.

As part of this celebration, the Parish Council will take the opportunity to plant a new red chestnut tree which would take over from the current horse chestnut upon its demise. It was decided to position it on the top green between the current tree and the road that divides the greens. **Councillor Brearley** will specify exactly what needs to be purchased and get quotes and **the Clerk** will look into securing a suitable grant. It is planned that the tree will be planted in October 2012.

In addition, an avenue of 60 lime trees will be planted on the Swaffham Prior road on its approach to Reach. Nick Acklam, who suggested this project and **the Clerk** are working together to make it happen. So far there are no stumbling blocks and **the Clerk** will endeavour to source grant money. Planting will take place in October 2012.

#### **7. Street Lighting Upgrade Review**

The street lighting PFI between the County Council and Balfour Beatty has been in place now for six months. However, whilst entering into the contract to upgrade the old County Council owned street lighting columns, the street lighting budget was reduced resulting in 10% of the old street lighting (2 columns in the case of Reach) not being replaced.

The Parish Council felt there were many questions to be answered, especially since the village has a number of its own columns to be considered. One of those questions relates to the style of the new columns which was universally disliked by councillors. **The Clerk** has communicated the Parish Council's concerns to the Head of Transport Asset Management and awaits his response.

It was noted that the plan states that Reach's street lights will not be replaced until early 2015.

#### **8. Vandalism on the Playing Field**

Some damage was done to the playground and the goal posts on the playing field. Most of this has been repaired but **the Clerk** will make a claim on the insurance to replace the Rocking Rooster.

It was also agreed that the Parish Council would fund a security light to be attached to the garage of 2a Burwell Road (Sue and Ewen Cameron). The Parish Council expressed their gratitude to Jo and Dan Mules whose company will fit the light free of charge.

#### **9. Planning Applications**

There were none for consideration.

#### **10. Information Items**

Councillor Clark commented that he is in communication with Anglian Water regarding the route of any pipeline taking effluent from Reach to Burwell.

It was agreed that the Parish Councillor would nominate Chairman Council Clark and his wife to potentially attend, if selected, a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### **11. Payments**

101003	DMParr	General Expenses	£79.28
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The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 7th March 2012 at 7.30pm. The Agenda for the meeting will be issued by the previous Wednesday – and will also be posted in the Parish Council area of the Reach website ([www.reach-village.co.uk](http://www.reach-village.co.uk)).

Chairman:

Date: